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INTEREST
AND
TRADE
OF
IRELAND
CONSIDER'D.

K. Wilson (R.)



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THE FIRST

TRADITION



AND
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To the HONOURABLE
ARTHUR HILL, Esq;

THE sole Design of this small Treatise on some Branches of Trade, being for the Good of my Country, your Merit being universally acknowledged, the great Part you had in obtaining the last Act for relief of Insolvent Debtors, so beneficial to the Trade of this Nation, having procured you the Esteem of all who understand the true Interest of this Kingdom, your being an unbiass'd Patriot of your Country, hath encouraged me with all humble Submission, to dedicate this to your Honour, altho' not polish'd as the Subject deserves, wishing Heaven may Reward all your good Intentions and Service to your native Country.

I am S I R,

Your Honour's most obedient,
and most humble Servant,

Robert Wilson.

The Interest and Trade of Ireland, &c.

THE Prudence and Wisdom of *Joseph* in *Egypt*, the Scarcity and Dearthness of Grain that happen'd lately in this Kingdom, the Example of all well regulated States and Kingdoms abroad, doth sufficiently prove the great Advantage it is for any State or Kingdom to have Quantities of Grain provided, and laid up in Granaries to guard against all Events.

The Farmers in this Kingdom being obliged to Pay all their Rents in Specie, and Grain falling oft-times low, and scarcity of Money very great, that it often happens hard for a Farmer to sell his Grain at any rate, for answering his Rent in the proper Season, and when Sold amounts to a small Sum, which often obligeth Farmers to sell greatest Part of their Grain for Payment of their Rent, for fear of being Distrained, and turn'd out of their Farms, leaving little for Support of their Families and Sowing their Lands: Bad Weather often happening, when least expected, and People badly provided, which obliges Farmers to give their Cattle (to keep them alive) part of the Grain they had kept for Sowing their Lands, and Support of their Families; and when Grain falls cheap, great Quantities are shipp'd off, no regard being had for leaving a sufficient Quantity that may be needful for supplying the Kingdom, which often occasions sudden Dearth and Scarcities, as happen'd a few Years past, and cost this Kingdom a great Sum of Money, and in, or about the Year 1709, Oatmeal was sold in the Month of *June* for three Shillings *Sterl. per Hundred*, and about *Christmas* following it advanced to thirteen Shillings *Sterl. per Hundred*, and hard to be got for Money, for Relief of the Poor, untill Supplies came from *England* and *Scotland*; which sudden Scarcity and Dearthness was occasion'd by the Reasons aforesaid, which is the principal Occasion of so many Farmers running in Debt to their Landlords, and the Terrors of a Goal, and the Cruelties many suffer that are confin'd, and have not where-

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with to Pay their Creditors, and might Starve were it not for the Charity of good People; and Trade being very dead, have occasion'd many Thousands of his Majesty's faithful Protestant Subjects to fly this Kingdom, and seek Relief in foreign Countries.

The Premises duly consider'd, plainly sheweth the great Advantage it would be to this Kingdom, wou'd the Parliament be pleas'd to order a proper Fund under the prudent and careful Management of the Right Honourable the Trustees of the Linnen Manufactory, who have so faithfully performed their Trust in Improving the Factoring of Linnen, so much for the Benefit and Advantage of this Kingdom, that they may order Grain to be bought up in proper Seasons, and put in Granaries in proper Parts of this Kingdom, and give further Orders in Managing as may be proper; by which, the Farmers could sell, and raise Money on their Grain, at all times, for Payment of their Rents, as might fall due; also for raising Money for answering their other needful Occasions; Tillage wou'd thereby be encourag'd; sufficient Quantities of Grain of all Sorts wou'd be carefully preserv'd for the Use of the Kingdom, and be ready (as may be thought proper) for Serving the Markets, and Relief of the Poor, and to take the first Start of any foreign Market may offer; by which Navigation will be encourag'd, a good Value in Specie returned, and the Trade of this Kingdom thereby will flourish; be a Means of Lands to advance, and Tenants enabled to Pay their Rents better then at present they can do.

France takes off none of our Factored Commodities, and all the Wines, Brandies, and other Commodities we have from them we must Purchase with ready Money, which often occasions our Country Goods to be Sold at very low Rates in *France*, and Pay considerable Discount for getting Money advanced for Purchasing their Wines, Brandies, and other Commodities, for the Payment of which, it takes the whole Value of all our Goods we import in that Kingdom; also a considerable Value answered and remitted by Bills of Exchange

Exchange, and a good Value sent in Specie ; whereas *Spain, Portugal,* and the Islands thereunto belonging, take from us, and consume large Quantities of all Sorts of Provisions, and other Factored Commodities ; for which we have in Return, a good value in Specie, good Wines, Fruits, Oil, and Salt, all proper for this Kingdom, and better then from *France.*

That it doth plainly appear it wou'd be for the Interest and Advantage of this Kingdom, that a Trade with *Spain, Portugal,* and the Islands thereunto belonging, were encourag'd, and at least twenty Pound *Sterl. per Tun* Duty laid on all Wines from *France,* or Pay the same Duty as in *Great Britain* ; also that all Spirits from *France,* and other Parts from abroad, shou'd Pay the same Duty as is Paid in *Great Britain,* and allow Molosses and Juniper-Berries to be imported in all Ships belonging to this Kingdom, Duty-free.

That by stilling Molosses and our own Grain, we shall be capable of making Spirits of several Sorts as well as in *Great-Britain,* and other Parts abroad, for the Service of our own Kingdom ; also to Ship abroad for the Use and Service of our Navigation, and for Sale, as other States and Kingdoms under the same Circumstances we are, frequently do : By which Means the whole Value, or greatest Part of all the Provisions and other Commodities imported into *France,* from this Kingdom, will be returned in Specie, or Bills of Exchange, and our Merchants will not be under a Necessity to glut or overstock their Markets with our Provisions and other Commodities, for Purchasing their Wines, Brandies and other Commodities, as formerly they have been oblig'd to do, and *France* will take the same Quantities of Provisions and other Commodities from us, as formerly they have done, and give us better Prices for what Provisions and other Commodities we send them, and will send Commissions for what they may want from us, to be Loaded on their own Ships, or by Freightning others, and Pay the same in Specie, or Bills of Exchange.

That *France* granting Passes in the late Wars for encouraging Provisions, and other Commodities, to be brought them from this Kingdom, the good Rates received for our Country Goods, and the low Rates their Wines, Brandies and other Commodities were purchas'd at, and the great Regard they had for having their Passes strictly observ'd and encourag'd by all their Ships of War, and Privateers, sufficiently proves what is set forth on this Head; and if the Methods aforesaid be complied with, may be a means for *France* to abate of the Duties and Taxes which our Provisions and other Commodities now Pay, for encouragement of their Importation; and *Spain*, *Portugal*, and the Islands thereunto belonging, may be encourag'd to take off larger Quantities of our Provisions, and other Commodities, than formerly they have done.

Molosses can be purchas'd abroad by the produce of our own Country at a very low Rate, and allowing them to be imported Duty-free in Ships belonging to this Kingdom, we can have as good Rum stilled thereof as now imported, and stilled of Molosses from any Part abroad; Juniper-Berries, by the produce of our own Country, can be imported from our Plantations abroad, or *Norway*, at a very small Rate, and by stilling our own Grain, can have as good Geneva made thereof, as we have from *Holland*, and other Parts abroad, which they still from Grain they have from *Great-Britain*.

It is well known much of the Brandies imported from *France*, particularly from the Port of *Nants*, is mixed with Spirits stilled off Molosses, they have from their Plantations abroad; also great Quantities of Brandies after imported from *France*, are mixed by Spirits stilled in this Kingdom, which duly consider'd, with other Reasons aforesaid, plainly sheweth, it will be for the general Incouragement of the Trade of this Kingdom, that the Premises be duly consider'd and complied with. His Majesty's Revenue in Custom and Excise will be thereby advanced, more than at present it is, a good Value in Specie returned, and circulate in this Kingdom, for improving of Tillage and our other

other Factories; all the Farmers, and other Persons on the Sea-coasts, and other Parts of the Kingdom, will be more encourag'd and active in seizing all Spirits, and other Commodities, that may be run inwards, or outwards, and have not legally Paid his Majesty's Duties. Laws are never so well observed as when they rule in the Minds of People, and that they find their Interest by observing said Laws.

That some reasonable abatement of Duty of all Wines imported in Ships belonging to this Kingdom from Spain, Portugal, and the Islands thereunto belonging (above single Prizage) that can by proper Certificate make appear, they have (in said Voyage) imported and landed twenty five Tuns merchantable Cod-fish, taken on the Coast of this Kingdom, or on the Banks, or Coast of *Newfoundland*, or *New-England*.

That Ships of large Burthen and Force may be employed in said Trade, and export larger Quantities of Fish abroad; also import larger Quantities of Wines in this Kingdom than what is mention'd, and make up their Cargoes outwards and homewards of other Commodities, according to the Incouragement Merchants may have, will greatly incourage Navigation and the Trade of this Kingdom, and be a means of having Wines, and other Commodities, cheap from abroad; also a good Value in Specie, all by the Industry, and diligent Endeavours of our own Inhabitants, and produce of our own Country; and that a great many Protestant Families, and faithful Subjects, may be encourag'd to continue and remain in this Kingdom, which are design'd to transport themselves to *America*; also incourage many to return from foreign Parts, and again settle and be useful to their native Country.

I was willing to crowd as much Matter as I cou'd into this little Treatise, that I might thereby ease the Reader, and shun Offence, and am willing to Answer any Objection may be made, and am well assured, if the Methods proposed therein be duly considered, and complied with, it will be found more for the Benefit and Advantage of this Kingdom than at present may appear. 6 DE SEF I N I S.

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